

Appln No. 10/621,052

Amdt date June 9, 2005

Reply to Office action of December 9, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a shaft including a socket opening in at least one end of the shaft; and
a handle connected to the shaft by a unidirectional bearing;
wherein the shaft has two ends and includes a second socket opening in the other end of the shaft.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the handle is connected an intermediate distance along the shaft so that both ends of the shaft can be manually rotated~~the shaft has two ends and includes a second socket opening in the other end of the shaft.~~

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the unidirectional bearing is a cam clutch unidirectional bearing.

4. (Original) A drum key for rotating a tension rod having a terminal end, comprising:
a shaft including a socket opening in at least one end of the shaft; and
a handle connected to the shaft by a unidirectional bearing;

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wherein the socket opening can engage the terminal end of the tension rod.

5. (Original) The drum key of claim 4, wherein the shaft has two ends and includes a second socket opening in the other end of the shaft that can engage the terminal end of the tension rod.

6. (Original) The drum key of claim 4, wherein the unidirectional bearing is a cam clutch unidirectional bearing.

7. (Currently amended) A method of tuning a drum, comprising:

rotating a tension rod using a drum key that includes a shaft with a socket opening in one end and a handle connected to the shaft by a unidirectional bearing;

wherein the rotation of the tension rod further comprises:

inserting a portion of the tension rod inside the socket opening of the drum key;

holding the handle of drum key stationary; and

simultaneously rotating the shaft of the drum key.

8. - 10. (Cancelled)